

REPORT OF THE NNF-SAERI WORKSHOP ON BLUE CARBON IN NAMIBIA

PREPARED BY USMAN KHAN - NNF

08/06/2022

VERSION 3



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VERSION CONTROL

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ABOUT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SAERI)

SAERI was a Falkland Islands Government initiative and operated as an arm's length government department from 2012 until June 2017. From 1 July 2017, however, it became a fully-fledged and independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) operating out of its hub in Stanley, Falkland Islands. Its origins remain a fundamental aspect to its growth and its future.

SAERI undertakes research in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and other Atlantic and Caribbean coastal communities, from the tropics down to the ice in Antarctica. Its vision is to deliver world-class environmental research that informs the effective stewardship of our planet. Its mission is to grow a sustainable environmental research institute in the Falkland Islands, and to build research and environmental stewardship capacity within and between South Atlantic Overseas Territories.

Strategically, SAERI aims to be a world-class research institute that teaches students and builds capacity within and between the South Atlantic Overseas Territories. In order to achieve that it must be:

- Project optimised – by operating as a streamlined and efficient organisation through the Focal Areas;
- Fully funded – Falklands registered limited company is able to fund SAERI overheads, ensuring SAERI ultimately becomes fully financially independent from Falkland Islands Government and by ensuring that all grant applications (where possible) contain cost of seat coverage; and
- The holder of proprietary environmental knowledge of the South Atlantic – by continuing to provide the research expertise offered to date.

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ABOUT THE NAMIBIA NATURE FOUNDATION

The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) was founded in 1987. It was initially established to help the (then) Department of Nature Conservation to raise and administer funds for the conservation of wildlife and protected area management. Since then, the work of the NNF has expanded, in both scope and volume, to encompass the whole field of environment. While considerable emphasis is still placed on the protection of parks and endangered species, the current focus of work is on broad sustainable development: environment and people, environment and development. This is seen in our work in community-based natural resource management, pollution and waste management, emphasis on policy, training and education.

The NNF works with a wide range of government organisations including the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Tourism, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and the Ministry of Works and Transport, and non-government organisations (e.g. IUCN, WWF, IRDNC, USAID, RSPB, SAERI, etc.). The NNF has evolved into a national institution that provides support to all relevant aspects of the environment in Namibia, to sustainable development and to wise and ethical natural resource management.

The NNF is perhaps the main NGO that has a working relationship with MFMR through projects on MPA management, inland fisheries and the Blue Economy. Along the coast, NNF and MFMR collaborate on reducing the by-catch of seabirds in the long-line fisheries and on the sustainable development of a Blue Economy. Together, the MFMR and NNF have considerable experience in the sustainable management of aquatic resources and have collaborated -thereby creating strong ties- in various projects, including currently on the development of an updated management plan for the NIMPA which is led by NNF with the support of the Blue Marine Foundation.

Throughout past projects, NNF was engaged in several complex stakeholder engagement processes. Within the Fishery sector, it was involved in setting up the KAZA Fisheries Working Group and developing the Okavango Transboundary Management Plan. The NNF also has good connections with stakeholders involved in the development of the Sustainable Blue Economy Policy process in Namibia, not only on marine conservation but also stakeholders in maritime transport, fisheries management and coastal city municipalities.

This considerable experience coupled with a good connection with stakeholders in the marine sector, places NNF in a strong position to provide support, stakeholder engagement and facilitation for this bid.

Company Name: Namibia Nature Foundation Trust.

Company Number: T117/14.

Registered office: 76 & 78 Frans Indongo Street, Windhoek Namibia.



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ACRONYMS

BAU	Business as usual
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GCRF	Global Challenges Research Fund
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
NPC	National Planning Commission
OOH	One Ocean Hub
PI	Principal Investigator
RP	Research Programme
SAERI	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
TEV	Total Economic Value
ToC	Theory of Change
UKRI	UK Research and Innovation
UNAM	University of Namibia

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1. INTRODUCTION

Marine ecosystems provide a wide array of benefits to humans across the world that have been overlooked and poorly understood in the past. Coastal zones make up just 4 percent of the earth's total land area and 11 percent of the world's oceans, yet they contain more than a third of the world's population and account for 90 percent of the catch from marine fisheries. Furthermore, human activities are increasingly putting pressure on the remaining marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide.

The restoration and sustainable management of these ecosystems must be guided by a better understanding of the functioning and value of these ecosystems to human societies and economies. The valuation of ecosystem services in monetary terms has been used as a tool to integrate non-market values of ecosystems into decision-making with the aim to increase the sustainability of management and development decisions. However, in Namibia the understanding of marine ecosystems is limited and work on economic valuations of ecosystems is nascent.

In the context of an intensification of marine and coastal activities and an effort from policymakers to develop a Sustainable Blue Economy Policy, marine and coastal ecosystems valuation have been identified as a priority action to generate quantitative evidence of potential trade-offs between various development options. With funding made possible by the One Ocean Hub (OOH), Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) (in collaboration with the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)) is working on eliciting some of the values of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This will build a platform to generate knowledge and evidence on Namibia's marine natural capital and support decision-making.

In view of the above, a one-day workshop was organised at the Atlantic Villa, Swakopmund on March 31, 2022 to explore the concept of blue carbon. A hybrid format was adopted to ensure involvement from those who were unable to physically attend. Participants were drawn from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector; a full attendance list is contained in [Annex I](#). Mr. Usman Khan and Ms. Samantha Matjila, NNF's Environmental Economist and Marine Coordinator respectively, facilitated the day's sessions. This report contains proceedings from the engagement.

2. OBJECTIVES

The workshop objectives were threefold. More specifically, the sessions sought to:

- Improve understanding of marine and coastal ecosystem services and how they can be valued from an economic perspective.

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- Introduce the concept of “blue carbon” and understand the current state of knowledge of these habitats
- Strengthen existing linkages within the One Ocean Hub platform and build partnerships with external initiatives which have an interest in marine ecosystem services.

3. **OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Tara Pelembe, Deputy Director for Innovation at the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI), welcomed participants to the workshop. She briefly provided background to SAERI, a research institution based in the Falkland Islands, and explained their relationship with Namibia.

She emphasised the need to have a better understanding of the value of natural capital in the coastal environment. The current work SAERI and NNF are conducting will look to shed insight on this, with a focus on blue carbon. Blue carbon habitats play a pivotal role both in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss and she underscored the need to generate information that relates to the Namibian context.

4. **ONE OCEAN HUB PRESENTATIONS**

The opening remarks paved the way for an introduction to the One Ocean Hub (OOH) programme. OOH is an international programme of research for sustainable development, working to promote fair and inclusive decision-making for a healthy ocean whereby people and planet flourish. OOH brings together coastal people, researchers, decision makers, civil society, and international organisations to value and learn from different knowledge(s) and voices. The “Hub” is funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), a key component in delivering the UK Aid strategy to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It addresses the challenges and opportunities of South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, and will share knowledge at regional and international levels.

OOH comprises five Research Programmes (RPs):

- RP1: law, which looks at ocean governance through the lens of history, anthropology and environmental justice for multi-scale fair and inclusive governance
- RP2: arts, which explores how cultural heritage and creative responsiveness can bring stakeholders together for emotional connection with the ocean
- RP3: fisheries science in an ecosystem context, trying to understand the role of fisheries in critical marine habitats and potential impacts arising from plastic pollution and climate change
-

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- RP4: marine sciences, focussed on advancing understanding of offshore marine biodiversity
- RP5: transformative governance for an inclusive, innovative, and responsible blue society (at a national or local level, with a focus on ethnography, economics and “empathetheatre”)

The first session of the workshop kicked off with presentations from the wider OOH programme in Namibia, comprising of RP1, RP3 and RP5.

4.1. RESEARCH PROGRAMME 5 (RP5)

Prof. Alex Kanyimba, Country Director of OOH in Namibia and principle investigator for the RP5 project provided an [overview](#) of the work accomplished to date and progress going forward. He started by presenting the Theory of Change (ToC) for the project, drawing attention to the expected impact of the activities, i.e., Namibia’s blue economy developments are based on sustainable resource management informed by natural capital and ecosystem services valuation, and with support to the sustainable livelihoods of coastal and previously disadvantaged communities.

He noted that two phases of community level field work had been completed. Going forward, Prof. Kanyimba stated that partnerships have been established with local partners who will support elements of implementation. Additionally, there will be a focus on publishing research outputs, while ensuring a strict adherence to research ethics and incorporating capacity building opportunities for early- to mid-career researchers.

The presentation was concluded by providing a rationale for the budget for this RP.

4.2. RESEARCH PROGRAMME 3 (RP3)

Dr. Margit Wilhelm, [presented](#). PhD project focuses on shore angling, particularly on the anglers and the catch per-unit-effort and compliance in the fishery. Research priorities from online questionnaires were grouped by common themes. One MSc objective looks at the biology of West coast steenbras, while the other will look at the stock structure of West coast steenbras.

4.3. RESEARCH PROGRAMME 1 (RP1)

Dr. Tapiwa Warikandwa's [presentation](#) started by providing a background on what has informed the work that RP1 is undertaking. Current legislation does not have an expressed definition of what Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) entails, necessarily implying exclusion of users of

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the marine space. In the context of Namibia, SSF plays a significant role in the daily lives of 40,000 Namibians, with 5,000 tonnes of fish obtained from the SSF. The work RP1 looks to do is to advocate for a specific definition of SSF. This will also involve the publication of research outputs.

4.4. DISCUSSION

A question and answer (Q&A) session was held at the end of the presentations, with the following points raised:

- It was suggested that RP5 could consider Oranjemund for support in fisheries. It is noted that there is an untapped fisheries resource and desire to make communities there self-sustaining; marine resources could be utilised to realise this
- On marine pollution, it is recommended that RP3 speak with Ms. La Toya Shivute from MFMR, who has just started a marine pollution science project
- Numerous ongoing projects in Namibia are focussed on OOH areas of interest and focus. It is advised that RP's learn lessons learned and tap into knowledge from those involved. It is also strongly recommended that relevant government ministries are kept in the loop regarding scheduled activities, so to prevent siloed work.
- There is an annual crayfish festival in Lüderitz which could serve as a pilot for the fish festival discussed by RP5. If successful, the fish festival could be replicated in other coastal communities in Namibia.
- The Directorate of Policy, Planning and Economics (PPE) at MFMR directed RP3 to annual angling surveys that are carried out by the ministry. Participants attending from the Directorate of PPE encouraged engagement with one another on this.

5. NAMARES PRESENTATION

Ms. Erikka Mokanya, Project Coordinator for NAMares, provided an [overview](#) of an ongoing partnership project between UNAM and Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon. NAMares falls under the MeerWissen initiative, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and seeks to support marine planners, stakeholders and policymakers with informed decision-making processes regarding ocean use. The project started towards the end of 2021 and is expected to run until September 2022.

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NAMares project was developed to support the ongoing work on the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Namibia, aiming to fill knowledge gaps on the value and benefits of ecosystems. Additionally, there is a current lack of understanding on the marine environment; the project will provide a better understanding and awareness on coastal and marine ecosystems. These objectives hope to achieve the dual objectives of sustainable blue growth and conservation of biodiversity.

There is a specific focus of the NAMares on the concept of “ecosystem services”, which relates to benefits people derive directly and indirectly from ecosystems. This concept was used following an ecosystem-based approach to reach a balance between conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of the Namibian marine space environment. In practice, this approach consists of four components:

1. Identifying and classifying marine and coastal ecosystem services in Namibia
 - Seeking to clarify what these services are, the methods that be used to identify them and which services are important for groups in Namibia
2. Spatial cost-benefit analysis for selected marine ecosystem services
 - Qualitative study with a focus on coastal tourism, shell collecting and artisanal fisheries
3. Assessing the risks associated with ecosystem services
 - Classifying that range of threats using a risk matrix and identifying actions to prevent or mitigate the identified risks
4. Sharing and communicating the knowledge generated
 - Engaging with communities and decision makers, developing innovative learning materials for awareness raising purposes and producing briefing papers

Ms. Mokanya concluded by highlighting opportunities for further OOH and NAMares collaboration, through ensuring there isn't duplication of work and attracting a broad set of stakeholders.

Ms. Mokanya concluded by touching on key milestones of the project and next steps. She noted that an inception workshop had been successfully conducted on February 17 and the team had recently completed a data collection planning session. On next steps, the NAMares team will pilot their data collection, capture indigenous knowledge and organise a community outreach programme. This will culminate into a second workshop scheduled for June.

6. ECONOMIC VALUATION OF MARINE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Mr. Usman Khan proceeded to give an [overview](#) of the role economics plays in work on marine ecosystem services. He started by providing a definition of the concept of ecosystem services and introducing the main classification systems. This was followed by touching on why marine

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ecosystems are important, making linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being.

Economic valuation serves as one tool to inform a variety of marine management decisions. He then provided a conceptual framework, Total Economic Value, through which these valuation exercises can be carried out and outlined techniques that can be utilised to illicit values.

Mr. Khan highlighted that economic valuation studies of the marine environment in Namibia were scarce, with notable literature including a 2002 [discussion paper](#) by the Directorate of Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and a [publication](#) from 2016 looking at the BCLME at large. There is renewed vigour in exploring marine ecosystem services, with the NNF-SAERI's OOH work, NAMares and an ongoing initiative by the [BCC](#).

6.1. NNF SAERI FLEXIBLE FUND PROJECT

The need to understand the value of natural capital in Namibia's marine environment was identified as a priority area to inform the implementation and management of developing blue economy plans. Under the OOH programme, NNF and SAERI have what is referred to as a "Flexible Fund" project which is a direct response to this identified need. The project seeks to advance understanding of the value of marine ecosystem services linked to the ecosystem and ecological processes within Namibian EEZ.

Mr. Khan [presented](#) on the work to date. The project kicked off at the end of 2021, consisting of consultations with key stakeholders and a systematic review of the existing literature on marine ecosystems in Namibia. Mr. Khan presented a table of ecosystem services in the Namibian marine context. Blue carbon was identified as the priority area for research. Before he moved on to introduce the blue carbon concept, he asked the audience whether they were aware of the concept prior to this engagement. The responses were split evenly in those who recognised the term and those for who it was a first.

Mr. Khan then introduced the data and methodology that will be used to conduct the economic valuation. These results will then be considered in an economic appraisal framework, i.e., cost-benefit analysis from the perspective of an "avoided emissions" project. In terms of future opportunities for blue carbon, he noted that financial incentives can be incorporated to reduce or offset emissions.

Following the presentation, participants from MFMR confirmed that there is nothing to suggest that there is seagrass present in Namibia's coastal waters. This was considered and the scope of work will solely focus on kelp.

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7. KELP BLUE PRESENTATION

Ms. Angelique Dodds, Environmental Scientist at Kelp Blue, [presented](#) an introduction to Kelp Blue, an organisation looking to grow giant kelp off the coast of Lüderitz. This is with a view to restore health of the oceans by storing carbon, as well as harvesting kelp for sustainable agri-foods, pharmaceuticals, and textiles.

Ms. Dodds divulged the audience on the benefits of kelp, with an explanation of why giant kelp is the preferred kelp for farming. Namibia was chosen as the first location for Kelp Blue's operations because of the unique environment that is the BCLME.

The project timeline was then shown to the participants, noting that operations are currently at the development phase.

Points that were discussed following the presentation:

- Given the high energy and corrosive environment of the pilot area, there was curiosity on how equipment will be monitored and how loss of equipment will be accounted for? The risk was acknowledged, with the Kelp Blue representative noting that monitoring is done on a six-month basis. That said, the question is best directed towards the engineering team
- It was confirmed that Kelp Blue are currently at the pilot stage, with a view to moving over to commercial by the end of next year. The team is currently busy with installations of infrastructure in the pilot area
- The organisation was commended for its transparency through the pilot process (including the EIA) and the commitment for its local capacity building aspect

8. GROUP SESSIONS

Following the presentations session, participants were split into three groups and tasked with bringing together the state of knowledge on blue carbon in Namibia, as well as identifying pressures faced by these ecosystem's habitats. Outputs from their discussions were then presented back to the wider group.

8.1. STATE OF KNOWLEDGE ON BLUE CARBON

This session looked to bring together existing knowledge on blue carbon habitats and identify critical information gaps (social, economic and ecological); capacity building initiatives that could be introduced; and resource requirements for future research. Outputs from this exercise can be found [here](#). Common areas highlighted by groups are below:

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- Spatial distributions of blue carbon habitats in Namibia do not currently exist publicly
 - It was noted that Kelp Blue, with a focus on kelp forests, may improve data on kelp biomes
- Beyond spatial distributions, the importance of these habitats, requires further research and the outputs need to be disseminated widely
 - This included the ecological properties of these ecosystems, their uses and opportunities for value addition.
- Coastal property rights and how this related to blue carbon habitats need to be better understood
- The potential cultural heritage value to coastal communities of blue carbon was an area of future focus.
- There is currently no national or regional framework through which to see blue carbon through
- There could be the inclusion of marine economics at the higher education level to improve understanding of the trade-offs associated with marine management decisions
- More discussion of climate change is required, particularly in the marine sector and as it relates to blue carbon habitats
- Country knowledge exchanges with those that are more advanced in their pursuit of blue carbon opportunities should be considered

8.2. CURRENT PRESSURES FACING BLUE CARBON HABITATS

The final exercise focussed on identifying current pressures blue carbon habitats were facing. Outputs from this exercise can be found [here](#). Additionally, groups were asked to consider the following scenarios:

1. Business as usual
2. Avoided carbon emissions project

Groups were asked to identify winners and losers for each scenario, while also considering impacts faced by users in the short and long run. As it related to the scenario of an avoided carbon emissions project, participants were asked to ponder the potential protection and opportunity costs of pursuing such a policy. This links to the economic appraisal work that NNF-SAERI are exploring in their valuation study.

Finally, thinking more broadly about blue carbon management, participants were also asked to consider who would need to be engaged on the blue carbon concept going forward.

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9. CLOSING REMARKS

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Usman Khan, who thanked participants for taking time from their busy schedules to attend this engagement. He reiterated that economic valuation of marine ecosystem services is nascent in Namibia, with substantial knowledge gaps in our understanding of blue carbon habitats. Convening this workshop has served as a very useful starting point in bringing existing information together.

Mr. Khan stressed that blue carbon habitats should not only be considered for their importance in attracting blue financing (potentially through carbon markets), but the additional ecosystem services beyond carbon sequestration and storage, which support biodiversity and tackle the impacts of climate change.

Appreciation was also shown to the OOH for supporting this engagement. He recognised the importance of OOH Namibia RPs presenting their work and noted it has already led to fruitful discussion.

Finally, Mr. Khan announced that NNF and SAERI were looking to finish the valuation work in the coming weeks, with a view to hold a results validation workshop in June. More details would be communicated with participants in due course.

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10. ANNEX I: ATTENDANCE LIST



Blue Carbon Workshop – Thursday March 31, 2022. Atlantic Villa Guesthouse, Swakopmund

Attendance list

#	Name	Organization	Email	Contact	Signature
1.	Rod Braby	bc GIZ HARISMA			
2.	Josua Ndelumona	MFMR			
3.	Eugene Libebe	UNAM			
4.	Alex Kanginda	Unam			
5.	TALISA WAKELANDWA	unam			
6.	ROV WULFENS	C.N.F.A.			
7.	Lo-Tyja Jank	MFMR			
8.	Etuna Hoimbili	MFMR			
9.	Victor Shantala	MFMR			



10.	Prakilla Nghoanguen	Kelp Blue			
11.	Onyloke Datto	Kelp Blue			
12.	Anya Kremer	MFMR			
13.	Erinca Mokoma	Unam			
14.	Ernie van Jaar	UNAM			
15.	Sim Nembus	UNAM			
16.	Almann Heneb	HAFA			
17.	Mergit Wilhelm	UNAM			
18.	Victoria Erasmus	FOA			
19.	Kelina Hilurda	BCC			
20.					

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Annex I continued (virtual attendance)

#	Name	Organization	Email
2	Aletia Bock	Debmarine	
2	Cornelia-Snerry Mungungu	Debmarine	
2	Lapaka Kaimbi	Debmarine	
2	Stella Ipinge	Debmarine	
2	Steven Ambabi	MFMR	
2	Julien Vumazonke	Namdeb	
2	Nandeshasho Nickanor	Namdeb	
2	Stefanus Gariseb	Namport	
2	Elizabeth Hendjala	NPC	
2	Tara Pelembe	SAERI	
3	Elize Shakalela	UNAM	
3	Lineekela Kandjengo	UNAM	
3	Mathias Mwaetako	UNAM	

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11. ANNEX II: AGENDA



NNF-SAERI-OOH workshop on blue carbon in Namibia

31 March 2022 at the Atlantic Villa, Swakopmund

1. Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome & registration - Introductions from participants	Samantha Matjila (NNF)
09:00 – 09:15	Opening remarks	Tara Pelembe (SAERI)
09:15 – 10:45	One Ocean Hub (OOH) work in Namibia	RP5 (Alex Kanyimba, UNAM) RP3 (Margit Wilhelm, UNAM) RP1 (Tapiwa Warikandwa, UNAM)
10:45 – 11:00	Break	-
11:00 – 11:30	NAMares project overview	Erikka Mokanya (UNAM)
11:30 – 12:00	Economic valuation of ecosystem services	Usman Khan (NNF)
12:00 – 12:30	NNF-SAERI-OOH project overview - Group discussion: aiming for common understanding of the term “blue carbon”	Usman Khan
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and group photo	-
13:30 – 14:15	State of knowledge on blue carbon - Group discussion: identifying critical data/information gaps for blue carbon evaluation (ecological, social & economic), capacity building initiatives and resource requirements/limitations (individual & institutional)	All
14:15 – 14:45	Feedback from groups	All
14:45 – 15:15	Introduction and overview to Kelp Blue	Angelique Dodds (Kelp Blue)
15:15 – 15:30	Break	-
15:30 – 16:15	What may hinder or promote the conservation and restoration of blue carbon habitats? - Group discussion: highlighting pressures facing blue carbon habitats, potential trade-offs and exploring future scenarios	All
16:15 – 16:45	Feedback from groups	All
16:45 – 17:00	Wrapping up	Usman Khan
17:00	Close	-

2. Contact

Usman Khan (Environmental Economist, NNF) – usman@nnf.org.na

Samantha Matjila (Marine Coordinator, NNF) – samantha@nnf.org.na

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12. ANNEX III: PHOTOS FROM WORKSHOP





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